

DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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January 17, 2003

PR 03-1

NEW LAW TO HELP ABC CRACK DOWN ON DRUG PARAPHERNALIA

Sacramento – A new law which became effective January 1, 2003, is designed to educate liquor licensees and prevent the sale of drug paraphernalia in liquor and convenience stores.

Under the new statute (Business and Professions Code Section 24200.6) authored by Assemblyman George Nakano (D) of Torrance (AB 2334), a liquor licensee or his agent is deemed to have knowledge that an item is drug paraphernalia if the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) or any other state or local law enforcement agency notifies the licensee in writing that the items, individually or in combination, are commonly sold or marketed as drug paraphernalia.

ABC Acting Director Jerry R. Jolly has issued a directive to all district offices to implement procedures to effectuate the law.

Said Jolly, "By establishing procedures, ABC is putting liquor licensees on notice that it is illegal to sell certain products that are used by drug users. Those licensees that continue with this practice will no longer be able to plead ignorance when ABC files administrative actions which may result in a suspension or even revocation of the license."

Items that are illegal to sell include scales and balances for weighing drugs; diluents and adulterants for cutting illegal drugs; capsules, balloons, plastic baggies and other containers to package small quantities of drugs; hypodermic syringes, needles and other items for injecting illegal drugs; pipes made out of metal, wood, acrylic, glass, stone plastic, or ceramic used for smoking crack cocaine, pipe screens, water pipes (also called "bongs"); roach clips used to smoke marijuana, etc.

ABC will be placing licensees on notice through various means. New liquor license applicants will be required to sign a form acknowledging they have read Form-ABC-546-A about drug paraphernalia. Existing licensees will receive a notice with their annual license renewal form.

During IMPACT (Informed Merchants Preventing Alcohol-related Crime Tendencies) inspections, ABC investigators or local law enforcement officers will request licensees sign a form acknowledging receipt of Form ABC-546-A.

ABC's LEAD (Licensee Education on Alcohol and Drugs) training program will continue to include drug paraphernalia training to help applicants and licensees prevent those types of violations.

If the public notices any type of drug paraphernalia being sold in liquor or convenience stores, they are encouraged to contact the local ABC district office which is listed in the State government section of the phone book.

ABC is a department of the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency, which is under the direction of Secretary Maria Contreras-Sweet, a member of the Governor's Cabinet.